

***Leptobrachium parvum* Boulenger, 1893 (Amphibia, Anura) : proposed conservation**

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The valid name under the Rules of the species now known as *Megophrys parva* (Boulenger, 1893) is in fact *Megophrys monticola* (Günther, 1864). In order to avoid the problems caused by this priority, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to use its plenary powers to place the name *Leptobrachium parvum* Boulenger, 1893 on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

Note. — This paper was submitted on 27 May 1981 to the Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for publication in the *Bulletin of zoological Nomenclature*, but, despite repeated requests since then, has still not been published in this journal. The problem it raised has therefore remained unresolved. This paper is therefore published here as it was submitted, except that a few recent references have been incorporated.

(1) The genus *Megophrys* was created by KUHLE & VAN HASSELT (1822) for a single species of frogs from Java. In the original description, the name of this species was mentioned twice, but under two different spellings: *montana* (p. 102) and *monticola* (p. 104). During a little more than a century, the name *montana* was universally considered as the valid name of this species, and was the only one to appear in the scientific literature, until the work of SMITH (1931: 12), where this author suggested to use the name *monticola* for this species. As was shown and discussed in more details elsewhere (DUBOIS, 1982), this action was incorrect, because GRAVENHORST (1829: 47), acting as first reviser ("first author to have cited together the competing spellings and to have chosen one as the spelling to be used"), had chosen the name *montana*. The name *montana* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822 must therefore be reinstated as the valid name of the type-species by monotypy of *Megophrys* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822. The name "*monticola* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822" must therefore be considered as an incorrect original spelling and, as such, is not an available name. The name *monticola*, which was used for this species by most authors after SMITH's (1931) work, must therefore be considered as an unjustified emendation of *montana* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822, and be credited to SMITH (1931: 12). (For a more lengthy discussion of this case, see DUBOIS, 1982).

(2) The fact that the name "*monticola* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822" cannot be considered as being available under the Rules has a secondary nomenclatural consequence. GÜNTHER (1864: 414) created the genus *Xenophrys* for a single new species, which he called *Xenophrys monticola*. BOULENGER (1893: 344) described this species again, on the basis of new material, under the name *Leptobrachium parvum*. Later, BOULENGER (1908: 419) considered both names as synonyms and transferred the species to which they both apply into the genus *Me-*

galophrys Wagler, 1830 (an unjustified emendation of *Megophrys* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822). For this species he used the name *parva* Boulenger, 1893, presumably because he considered the name *monticola* Günther, 1864 to be preoccupied in this genus by "*monticola* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822" – although for this latter species he used the correct name *montana* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822! All subsequent authors have admitted both the synonymy of *monticola* Günther, 1864 and *parva* Boulenger, 1893, and the need of using the second of these names for this species, the first one being considered preoccupied in the genus *Megophrys*. Since however, as shown above, the name "*monticola* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822" has no status in nomenclature, the name *monticola* Günther, 1864 is in fact valid, and *monticola* Smith, 1931 (replacement name of *montana* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822) is a junior secondary homonym of this name. It would therefore be necessary to reinstate the name *monticola* Günther, 1864 as the valid name of the species currently known as *Megophrys parva* (Boulenger, 1893). This action would be most inappropriate, for three reasons :

(a) The specific name *monticola* Günther, 1864 has not been in use since its replacement by BOULENGER (1908) by the name *parva* Boulenger, 1893.

(b) The specific name *parva* Boulenger, 1893 has been widely used since then (see e.g. : ANNANDALE, 1908 : 305, 1912 : 29, 1917 : 155 ; HORA, 1922 : 9, 1923 : 582, 1928 : 139 ; NIEDEN, 1923 : 57 ; NOBLE, 1927 : 75 ; BOURRET, 1942 : 203 ; KRIPALANI, 1953 : 60 ; LIU & HU, 1961 : 66 ; DANIEL, 1962 : 667 ; TAYLOR, 1962 : 299 ; GORHAM, 1966 : 21, 1974 : 43 ; INGER, 1966 : 19 ; WALTNER, 1973 : 22 ; DUBOIS, 1974 : 353, 1976 : 12, 1977 : 113, 1980 a : 165, 1980 b : 472, 1981 : 69 ; ANONYMOUS, 1977 : 28 ; FROST, 1985 : 416).

(c) The resurrection of the name *monticola* Günther, 1864 for this species would be liable to create a confusion with the name "*monticola* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822" which, although improperly, has since SMITH's (1931) work been widely used for the species the valid name of which is shown above to be *montana* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822.

(3) Accordingly, I request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *monticola*, as published in the combination *Xenophrys monticola* Günther, 1864 (: 414), for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

(2) to place the specific name *monticola*, as published in the combinations *Megophrys monticola* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822 (: 104), *Xenophrys monticola* Günther, 1864 (: 414) and *Megophrys monticola* Smith, 1931 (: 12), on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* ;

(3) to place the specific name *parvum*, as published in the combination *Leptobrachium parvum* Boulenger, 1893 (: 344), on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* ;

(4) to place the specific name *montana*, as published in the combination *Megophrys montana* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822 (: 102) (type-species by monotypy of *Megophrys* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822), on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* ;

(5) to place the generic name *Megophrys* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822 (: 102), type-species, by monotypy, *Megophrys montana* Kuhl & Van Hasselt, 1822, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

RÉSUMÉ

Le nom valide, selon le *Code*, de l'espèce d'Anoures actuellement connue sous le nom de *Megophrys parva* (Boulenger, 1893), s'avère être en fait *Megophrys monticola* (Günther, 1864). De manière à éviter les problèmes posés par cette priorité, il est demandé à la Commission Internationale de Nomenclature Zoologique de faire usage de ses pleins pouvoirs pour supprimer le nom spécifique *Xenophrys monticola* Günther, 1864 et de placer le nom *Leptobrachium parvum* Boulenger, 1893 sur la *Liste Officielle des Noms Spécifiques en Zoologie*.

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